THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The strengthening and modernisation of the weaponry of our Armed Forces is attended to by the Government on a continuing basis to maintain the required level of defence preparedness. While these efforts are limited to the budgetary allocations made for the purpose, attempts are made to augment resources by recourse to economy measures wherever possible, and to maintain essential defence preparedness by resort to prioritisation of requirements.

Statement

1. The military expenditure in India and in Pakistan and China, in terms of proportion of the Central Government expenditure, as per the published data available, is as under :—

Country	Proportion of the Central Government expenditure		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
Pakistan	34.31%	34.52%	34.43%
India	15.58%	15.15	14.69%
China	16.20	Not available	Not available

(* Source : Asian Strategic Review-1994-95.)

2. There is, however, an inherent drawback in such comparisons on account of the difference in the criteria used for the classification and categorisation of the expenditure on Defence by different countries. The amount of defence spending or defence budget of any country, as such, may not reflect the actual degree of defence efforts and may not provide the basis for a comparison on a like to like basis with that of other nations. For instance, some countries show the expenditure on capital works and on defence related industries under the budgetary allocations of Ministries/ Departments other than Ministry of Defence. Nor are statistical parameters like this necessarily a true measure of the combat expertise or level of defence preparedness of the armed forces in realistic terms.

Development of NHs in Karnataka

2409. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Government of Karnataka to the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of the proposals out of them approved/yet to be approved and the funds santioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not clearing the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any of the sanctioned projects is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) :

(a)

Year	Nos. of proposals
1994-95	48
1995-96	35
1996-97	19

(b)

Year	Approved	Not approved/ yet to be approved	Sanctioned amount (Rs. in lakh)
1994-95	45	3	2668.61
1995-96	20	15	2427.48
1996-97	4	15	4293.87

(c) The remaining proposals were not cleared as the same were not finding place in the respective Annual Plan due to paucity of funds.

(d) and (e) The work of improvements to geometrics from Km. 330.525 to 332.50 on NH-48 in South Kannara District is delayed. The Revised Estimate for the above work is under correspondence with the State P.W.D.

[Translation]

Development of Sanskrit

2410. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several seminars were organised last year in various parts of the country to frame a national policy for development of Sanskrit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the draft prepared on the basis of these seminars; and

(c) the time by which this policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) This Ministry had not organised any seminars last year for this purpose.

[English]

N.H.-44

2411. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for converting the Assam-Agartala National Highway (NH-44) into double lane;

(b) if so, what the steps taken to implement the proposal;

(c) the steps taken to extend this National Highway (NH-44) from Agartala to Sabroom;

(d) whether it is fact that the State Government has agreed to arrange necessary lands for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Improvement of Agartala - Sabroom Road to National Highway standards would be taken up in stages in the Ninth five - year plan.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The details of the Land Acquisition would be known after the survery.

Ancient Relics

2412. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether invaluable paintings, ancient relics and other historic objects including items from the Indus Valley Civilisation are being damaged at the 183 years old Indian Museum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures to be taken to restore these paintings, ancient relics and histroric objects there?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir. Besides, the Museum is already extending highest priority for appropriate protection, conservation and preservation of the museum holdings.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Medicines on Higher Rate

2413. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket supplying fake medicines and also supplying medicines on higher rates to the hospitals in U.P. and Delhi has been busted;

(b) if so, whether any persons have been arrested in this connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Promotion of Group 'D' Employees of KVs

2414. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for internal promotion of Group 'D' employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas to the post of Lower Division Clerk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Group 'D' employees who have since been promoted during the last three years till date, Kendriya Vidyalaya-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision for filling up of 10% vacancy of Lower Division Cleark (created/made available after 12.1.1992) through promotion of the Group 'D' employees working in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) Promotion of Group 'D' employees is not done Vidyalaya-wise but on regional basis. During the last 3 years, 21 Group 'D' employees working in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been promoted to the post of Lower Division Clerk.